

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



TONI ATKINS
COUNCILMEMBER
THIRD DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Budget Forum for District Three Residents on Wed., March 19, at Balboa Park Club

Public Encouraged To Attend, Offer Input on Budget Priorities

SAN DIEGO— Third District City Councilmember Toni Atkins, City Manager Mike Uberuaga, and City Financial and Management Services staff will host a City budget forum for District Three residents on Wednesday, March 19th, from 6:30 to 9:00pm at the Balboa Park Club in Balboa Park. There is ample seating at this venue to accommodate a large crowd, and the public is encouraged to attend.

"Due to current economic conditions and their effects on the City's general fund, we're anticipating a shortfall of \$20 to \$30 million in revenue in our current FY '03 budget and anticipate even deeper cuts for the '04 budget. This shortfall will have a serious effect on every aspect of the City and the services we provide," said Councilmember Atkins. "This budget forum will give District Three residents the ability to weigh in on what services should be given top priority, not just in the district, but citywide."

The forum is designed to provide information about the City's potential Fiscal Year 2004 budget to the public as well as afford those in attendance the opportunity to give their input on what City services should and shouldn't be cut in these tough budgetary times. The City Manager and members of his staff will be on hand to answer questions from the public following their presentation.

In an effort to assist with the Manager's call on all general fund departments to save at least 3 percent of their appropriations, Councilmember Atkins was the first Councilmember to instruct her Council office to do the same. In a memo dated February 23, Councilmember Atkins states: "I firmly believe that in these hard economic times that we must all be prepared to make sacrifices and reduce costs and increase savings as much as possible ... These savings will come from salaries, fringe benefits, and other office supply and expense accounts. While I realize this action may not add significantly to the bottom line of our current fiscal dilemma, I am hopeful the reduction in my budget can be put toward direct City services that benefit the community."

The Balboa Park Club is located at the northwest end of the parking lot which serves the Hall of Champions, the Starlight Bowl, the Aerospace Museum and the Automotive Museum. Turn west on Presidents Way off Park Boulevard, make a left at the stop sign, and park in the large lot. The Balboa

Park Club is on the far right once you enter the parking lot.

If you are hearing impaired or in need of special arrangements to help facilitate your attendance, please contact the District Three office in advance of the forum so they can work to address your specific needs. The office number is 619/236-6633.

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